

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Jerry Polus, Joan Brusky, Duane Pierce

EXCUSED: Delores Pierce, Louise Dahlke, Ed Koslowski

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:31 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 21, 2017.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. 2017 – 2018 Budget Carryover Request.

Chair Erickson referred to the budget carryover request contained in the agenda packet. He noted the procedure several years ago was for any unspent dollars to be returned to the County's general fund; however, he has worked with Internal Auditor Dan Process to revise the process so any funds remaining in the account at the end of the year can be carried over to the following year. This carryover request will be formally approved at the January County Board meeting.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Jerry Polus informed that 283 veterans have requested Honor Rewards Cards and there are currently 83 area businesses participating in the program. He will contact businesses who are not currently participating in the spring to see if there is any interest.

6. Discussion re: 2018 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Erickson reminded this year's event will be held on Sunday instead of Saturday, which he feels is advantageous to anyone who wants to bring their family as the ticket prices are reduced on Sunday. He said if the event does not go as well as it usually does due to being held on Sunday, we can always ask the Fair to have the event moved back to Saturday.

A discussion was held as to what group of veterans to honor at the event this year. A suggestion had been made to honor the National Guard, both former and present. Erickson noted we do not have to make a final

decision on this until April, so we still have some time in case there are any more suggestions at the next few meetings. This item will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Erickson also noted that the 200th Anniversary of Brown County is in 2018 and perhaps we could look into some way to incorporate that into whatever group we decide to honor. This can also be discussed further at the next meeting after we have had a little time to think about it. Brusky also suggested doing something to honor multiple generations of military in the same family.

Brusky referenced the very generous raffle donation received last year from Home Depot and was thinking we could look for another business to donate another large prize for this year's event. Erickson said we can ask Home Depot again for a similar donation and he also suggested talking to Fleet Farm for a donation.

7. Report of CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus reported on the Flight of Champions Old Glory Honor Flight that will be taking place on November 1 from Austin Straubel. He said in the eyes of Old Glory Honor Flight, this would be a one-time thing; however County Executive Troy Streckenbach said he would like the Flight of Champions to be an annual event. Polus said a meeting will be held next week with Old Glory Honor Flight to talk about sponsorships and if it is shown that funds can be raised, he would like to have a second flight and then negotiate to have this flight take place annually. Polus said he has received very generous donations from Broadway Chevrolet and Cotter Funeral Home and he feels if we show Old Glory Honor Flight that we do not have a problem raising donations, the likelihood of having this become an annual event would increase. He said \$50,000 has already been raised which should really get the attention of Old Glory Honor Flight.

Polus continued that an Old Glory Honor Flight fundraiser will be held on February 16 beginning at 8:00 pm at the Lambeau Field Atrium. The event is named An Evening to Remember and will feature the Vic Ferrari band as well as live and silent auctions and other activities. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$125 each or a table of ten can be purchased for \$1000.

Polus continued that Old Glory Honor Flight really wants the Flight of Champions promoted in the community so a large crowd is present at the airport in the evening when the flight returns to Green Bay. It is anticipated the Bay Port band as well as the Bay Port dance team will be on hand at the airport as the veterans come off the plane.

8. Reports from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce).

-Brusky did not have anything to report.

-Duane Pierce indicated a meat raffle will be held on January 20 at 2:00 pm at Shoots Bar. There will also be a meat raffle on February 10 at 2:00 pm at the VFW in Howard and one February 24 at 2:00 pm at Pearly Gates.

Pierce also reported that his Rolling Thunder Chapter took part in the Wreaths Across America event on December 16. They laid 25 wreaths on gravesites at a cemetery near Freedom. There was a 21 gun salute and Taps was played. It went so well that the Rolling Thunder Chapter intends to participate again next year.

-Erickson passed out an updated contact list of subcommittee members. He also referenced a letter that had been received from Jim Haskins in response to comments made in the past regarding Veterans Day. The letter will be available in the County Board Office for anyone who may wish to read it.

9. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Polus informed he will be retiring at the end of this year after working in the Veterans Office for 28 years. He indicated he would like to remain active in this Subcommittee.

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to adjourn at 5:10 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist